PROCLAMATION
CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH
FEBRUARY 2015

WHEREAS, career and technical education offers students the opportunity to gain the academic, technical, and employability skills necessary for career readiness; and

WHEREAS, students in career and technical education programs participate in authentic, meaningful experiences that improve the quality of their education and increase student engagement and achievement; and

WHEREAS, career and technical education provides students with career exploration opportunities earlier in their educational experience, which enables them to make informed and beneficial decisions about their academic coursework as well as pursuit of established programs of study and career pathways; and

WHEREAS, leaders from business and industry statewide report increasing challenges related to the skills gap and connecting qualified professionals with available careers in critical and growing CTE-related fields, including healthcare, energy, advanced manufacturing, value added agriculture, and information technology; and

WHEREAS, career and technical education prepares students for these and other fulfilling careers by offering integrated programs of study that link secondary and postsecondary education and lead to the attainment of industry-recognized credentials; and

WHEREAS, ensuring that employers have access to a qualified workforce is a crucial step in ensuring economic growth and global competitiveness within North Dakota's business and industry communities; and

WHERAS, all North Dakotans are encouraged to become familiar with the services and benefits offered by the career and technical education programs in our state, and to support and participate in these programs to enhance their individual skills and productivity.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim February 2015, **CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH** in the state of North Dakota.

Jack Dalrymple
Governor

ATTEST:

Alvin A. Jaeger
Secretary of State